

14 July 1981

Dear Max,

It is with deepest regret that I accept your resignation. I do, however, respect your wishes and fully understand your position. I greatly appreciate your efforts for this Agency. You have deservedly earned the respect of those with whom you have worked.

I know that you will not lose your dedication to our nation's security and welfare and I wish you well in whatever you undertake in the future.

Yours,

William J. Casey

14 July 1981

Dear Bill:

As you know, since I was appointed Deputy Director for Operations I have been the subject of repeated unfavorable articles of the press, the most recent one being this morning. These allegations, although unfounded, unproven and untrue, have become a burden which I no longer believe is fair to impose on the Administration, the Agency, my family, and the splendid men and women who work with me. Accordingly, with deepest regret and sorrow I hereby tender my resignation effective as of the close of business today.

I want you to know how appreciative I am for the opportunity you have provided me to serve my country. However, under present circumstances I feel I can no longer effectively serve you or the Agency. Although I am resigning, I want you to know that I am available for any future assignment in which you believe I can be of help.

Sincerely,

Max Hugel

PRESS STATEMENT

14 July 1981

Mr. Max Hugel, CIA's Deputy Director for Operations, today tendered his resignation. Mr. Hugel said that he had concluded that, although allegations made with respect to certain business activities seven years ago are unfounded and untrue, the allegations have become a burden which he believes is no longer fair to impose on the Agency and the men and women who have worked with him. Mr. Hugel wishes to emphasize that the allegations against him concern his private life and have no connection whatsoever to his association with CIA or to its activities.

The Director has appointed Mr. John Stein, a career CIA officer, to succeed Mr. Hugel as Deputy Director for Operations.

The text of their exchange of letters is attached.